



# The Rail Gunner Weekly

## 41st Fires Brigade



1-21 FA



2-20 FA



589th BSB



HHB

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## Asians, Pacific Islanders celebrate



Performers in the Asian and Pacific Islander celebration held May 23 at the FOB Delta Movie Theater gather to sing the 1985 hit song "We Are the World" to end the show. For more photos, please see page 4.

By Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

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41st Fires Bde. PAO

A crowd of nearly 400 gathered at the FOB Delta Movie Theater May 23 for a celebration of Americans of Asian or Pacific Islander heritage.

The party featured demonstrations of the dances of several cultures and tae kwon do, as well as ethnic foods.

"It's a strong culture," said Sgt. 1st Class Lorraine Logan, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade, equal opportunity noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

"To see them transform was beautiful. They were really excited to show everyone their culture," said Logan, a Buffalo, N.Y., native.

Soldiers found eager teachers when it was time to prepare for the show.

"We grew up doing this stuff, but her mom had never taught her any of it," said Lt. Col. Ina Yahn, 589th BSB commander and a native of Gataivai, American Samoa, of one of her Soldiers who was of Samoan descent but had never been introduced to the culture. Yahn taught three Soldiers several dances, which they performed in Iron Caisson T-shirts and sarongs.

The case was similar with the Tinikling dancers, a Filipino dance in which two people cross the bamboo rods close to the ground as dancers hop and dance over the poles.

Sergeant Maj. Rolando Munoz, operations sergeant major for 41st Fires Bde., who lived in the Philippines until he was 17 and taught Tinikling in the past, volunteered to teach willing Soldiers.

"No one here had danced before," said Munoz, who said his group spent six practices getting the moves down.

The tae kwon do group admitted they hadn't had enough practice and sometimes missed their marks, but still enjoyed participating.

"We just had fun with it," said Sgt. Enrique Collazo, of Orlando, Fla., battle operations NCO, 41st Fires Bde., who studied tae kwon do for six years before moving onto other martial arts.

Collazo and his teammate, Spc. Noel Kim, broke several wooden boards on stage, but at times it took a try or two. Collazo said they hadn't had enough to use during practice so the first time they broke the boards was onstage.

The show also featured hula dancers performing to a song sung by Maj. Jennifer Finch, intelligence officer, 41st Fires Bde., who lived in Hawaii as a child.

# VTC bridges cultures, elementary students

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

Al Enteserat Primary School students from Shaykh Sa'ad met fourth and fifth graders from Meadows Elementary School in Fort Hood, Texas, through a video teleconference set-up at Joint Security Station Ezdehar May 22.

The VTC, organized by Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment and 67th Forward Support Company, was the culmination event between the partnered schools. Previously, the two schools had swapped video-taped sessions between the classes.

"This is the first step for us coming from far away to this military place just to learn about your education and your knowledge and we hope it's going to be a long-term friendship," said Adnan Jassan Muhammad, Al Enteserat Elementary School principal.

The students traded turns asking and answering questions ranging from how their schools are organized and what subjects they study to how they spend their free time and what they want to be when they grow up.

The VTC gave the students from both schools a chance to see and hear how different and similar their respective schools and experiences are.

The Soldiers at JSS Ezdehar partner with the 3rd Company, 3rd Battalion, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade and have established friendships with the Iraqi Soldiers stationed at JSS Ezdehar and the people of Shaykh Sa'ad.

"My Soldiers are partners and friends with the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police and I hope that the children of America will be friends forever with the children of Iraq," said Lt. Col. Timothy Bush, commander, 2-20 FA Regt., 41st Fires Brigade.

"This VTC helps to bridge the cultures between the American and Iraqi students," said Capt. Mark Terwilleger, 67th FSC and JSS Ezdehar commander.

The elementary school students represent the future of Iraq and



**An Iraqi student from Al Enteserat Primary School asks a question to students at Meadows Elementary School, Fort Hood, Texas, via video teleconference call at JSS Ezdehar May 22.**

*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Coney, 41st Fires Bde. IO*

hopefully this event will continue after U.S. Forces depart Iraq, said Terwilleger.

"It is our hope and desire that this friendship will extend and grow over and over for the years to come," said Karol Carlisle, Meadows Elementary Principal.

The students at Meadows Elementary school plan on conducting a school supply drive for their partner school in Iraq at the beginning of the next school year.

## Ambassadors of Hollywood tour revisits FOB Delta



Above: Spc. Rick Orozco, of Los Angeles, Supply Support Activity clerk, Company A, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade, speaks with Samaire Armstrong (right), most recently known for her role on "Dirty Sexy Money," as D.W. Moffett, of the television series "Friday Night Lights" signs a poster for Orozco during a meet and greet with the latest Ambassadors of Hollywood Tour participants May 18 at the Pavilion.

Armstrong was also on the series "The O.C.," of which Orozco was a fan. He brought a DVD box-set of the series to the meet and greet for Armstrong to autograph.

(From left) Brianne Davis, also known as "Georgia Peach" to her tourmates, most recently in the movie "Prom Night"; AJ Buckley, of the series "CSI:NY"; Danielle Harris, who has starred in several "Halloween" movies; Staff Sgt. Robert Haring, of Seaside Park, N.J., unit movement noncommissioned officer, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade; Moffett and Armstrong pose during the meet and greet May 18 at the Pavilion.

All five actors have played roles within the "CSI" franchise during their careers.

*Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO*





# TF Gunner Med: Doc's first trip to local hospital

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

Task Force Gunner Med, the 41st Fires Brigade's combined medical engagement team, visited the Karama hospital May 19, continuing their effort to improve the Wasit healthcare system.

The visit is part of the joint medical civil-military operation between the Wasit Director General of Health and the 41st Fires Brigade, designed to restore the medical capacity in Wasit and to bring medical care up to the regional health care standard.

Lt. Col. Sheila Hodgson, 945th Forward Surgical Team, ventured outside FOB Delta for the first time since her team took over for the 848th FST in March.

"I think it was a great experience. I was just really amazed by the doctors there; they are working with so little but they are still doing what they can to help the people," said Hodgson of San Francisco.

Hodgson was joined on this trip by Col. Carlos Penalzoza, flight surgeon for 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, who also visited the local hospital for the first time. They met with the Karama doctors and discussed some of the hospital's challenges before visiting patients.

The lack of medical training materials was one of the issues brought up during the meeting and Hodgson says if she had known lack of materials was a problem, she would have brought some from home.

"We have so much of that laying around back in the states," said Hodgson. "So that's what I plan to do, just contact my colleagues back in the States and see if they can send me a box of DVDs and electronic materials."

The lack of educational materials wasn't the only thing that Hodgson noticed as she toured the hospital and visited with patients.

"It just seems that their medical attention on the floor is pretty limited, basically the care they were getting were provided by their family members, so they really need to build up their infrastructure; nursing,



**Lt. Col. Sheila Hodgson, 945th FST, talks with a pathologist who works at Karama hospital during her visit with Task Force Gunner Med May 19.**

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO*

nurses aids and even just basic equipment," said Hodgson.

The best part of Hodgson's first trip to the hospital was talking to a female pathologist who works at Karama hospital with her husband.

"You could tell she was just very dedicated, very passionate about her work and I'm sure what she has to work with is very limited, but she really inspired me," said Hodgson.

"Hopefully we can get to go out on more missions and bring out more supplies, and do what we can while we're here," she added.



**Col. Carlos Penalzoza, flight surgeon with 1-150th AHB, talks with a fellow surgeon at the Karama hospital during a visit with Task Force Gunner Med May 19.**

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO*

Do you need direction?  
Do you need someone to talk to?  
If you would be interested in reading an advice  
column in the Rail Gunner Weekly,  
send an e-mail to 41stFires@Gmail.com.  
You can also pose questions to the columnist.

\*Advice will be for entertainment purposes only.

## Worship Opportunities Sunday

### Chapel 1

Traditional Protestant	0900
Latter-day Saints	1030
Gospel Service	1300
Reconciliation service	1830
Catholic Mass (English)	1930

## Monday

### Chapel 1

Catholic Mass	0800
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## Tuesday

### Mayor Cell

Bible Study	1930
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### Chapel 1

Bible Study	2000
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## Thursday

### TMC

Bible Study	1930
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## Saturday

### Chapel 1

Catholic Mass	0800
Christian Movie Night	2000

# 1-150th AHB takes reigns of skies over FOB Delta

**By Sgt. Allison Churchill**  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

The Soldiers of 3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion prepared to transfer authority of their airspace to those in 1-150th AHB.

The 3-142nd AHB, of the New York National Guard, arrived on FOB Delta in November.

"I'm glad all the Soldiers who came with us are going back home with us," said Lt. Col. Albert Ricci Jr., commander of 3-142nd AHB. "We made the mission happen."

Ricci also thanked leadership at the Mayor Cell and 41st Fires Brigade for assistance in making the battalion's area of operations more comfortable. When the unit arrived and began working out of the eastern helipad, there was little office space for the various companies.

Now the area is almost unrecognizable from six months ago.

"Thank you for setting the conditions for success," said Lt. Col. John Scannell, 1-150th AHB commander.

The 1-150th AHB is deployed in support of 28th Combat Aviation Brigade, Pennsylvania National Guard, Task Force Keystone, although the majority of the battalion's Soldiers are from New Jersey.

The battalion has previously deployed to FOB Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, as 1st Battalion, 150th General Support Aviation Battalion.

The 3-142nd AHB has activated to support several domestic emergencies, such as Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. They have also deployed to the Balkans.



*Left:* First Sergeant Mark Wilson, senior enlisted leader of Company B, 3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, and Lt. Col. Albert Ricci, battalion commander, case the units colors during a transfer-of-authority ceremony May 18.



*Right:* Command Sgt. Maj. Konrad Uldschmidt, senior enlisted leader of 1-150 Assault Helicopter Battalion, and Lt. Col. John Scannell, battalion commander, finish unfurling the unit colors, marking the beginning of their deployment during the TOA.

*Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO*

## Dance, martial arts demonstrations bring Soldiers together



Above: Spc. Noel Kim, armorer, Company A, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade, breaks a board held by Sgt. Enrique Collazo, battle operations noncommissioned officer, 41st Fires Bde., during a tae kwon do demonstration at the Asian and Pacific Islander celebration held at the FOB Delta Movie Theater May 23.

Right: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerimia Honore, of Sacramento, Calif., information systems technician, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 589th BSB, and 1st Lt. Vanessa Hooper-Yan, of Gross Ile, Mich., Morale, Welfare and Recreation entertainment representative, 41st Fires Bde., perform Tinikling, a traditional Filipino dance, during the Asian and Pacific Islander celebration.

*Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO*

